

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which, in a historic vote only an hour and a half ago, the Senate overwhelmingly passed. I wish to talk for a moment about how that bill will improve the health of children across our country, particularly for children in my State of Ohio.

Ohio is home to six of the best children's hospitals that house a combined 1,749 beds. Ohio is also home to 218,400 uninsured children. The health reform bill which we have been debating on this Senate floor for 26 straight days will help cover Ohio's uninsured children and help our children's hospitals provide the right care at the right time in the right place. This legislation will make sure the children have access to oral and vision care. It will keep children healthy by eliminating copays and deductibles for recommended preventive care.

Similarly, in the Medicare section of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, senior citizens in Olympia, Redmond, Seattle, Cleveland, Akron, and Canton will be able to get free mammograms and colonoscopies and preventive care and annual checkups. Children, too, under this legislation will have copays and deductibles eliminated for recommended preventive care.

It will extend the Children's Health Insurance Program for an additional 2 years and provide States with additional funding to ensure children have access to this program. It will increase the number of pediatric primary care physicians and pediatric specialists. And we now know how important it is, as I learned at Akron's Children's Hospital a decade and a half ago, that the government assist in helping with training and providing funding through

Medicare and through appropriations to train pediatric primary care physicians and specialists.

Perhaps most important of all is this legislation will do something Senator LAUTENBERG,

Representative SCHWARTZ, and I have tried to do for 3 years: it will eliminate immediately the preexisting coverage exclusion for children. For the past two Congresses, Senator LAUTENBERG, Representative SCHWARTZ, and I have introduced the Children's Health Protection Act, legislation that would prevent insurers from denying children needed medical care.

Twenty percent of school-age children suffer from a chronic illness—20 percent. All too often, these children face challenges accessing affordable and adequate health insurance due to their preexisting conditions. Children have preexisting conditions too. Yet children with preexisting conditions are so often denied medical insurance by insurance companies.

Our bill, which is largely included in the Senate health reform legislation which we passed an hour and a half ago, would ensure children suffering from chronic and debilitating and life-threatening illnesses have access to comprehensive and affordable health care coverage.

This bill will help children such as Shaunell Johnson from Ohio. When her parents were unable to care for her, Shaunell was adopted by her grandparents, Dorothy and Jack Johnson. Because their income exceeded the limits for medical income eligibility, they turned to the private health insurance market for Shaunell. However, due to her asthma, a preexisting condition, the Johnsons were unable to afford health insurance because they earn more than would qualify Shaunell for Medicaid but they don't earn enough to afford the \$8,700 a year for private insurance coverage for a child with a preexisting condition.

Children with serious medical conditions shouldn't be cherry-picked out of health insurance policies while their families struggle to provide care and pay medical bills.

The time has come for Congress to act on behalf of children such as Shaunell and the Senate has acted today.

We must insure that children most in need are no longer denied access to health coverage. We must immediately prevent the insurance industry from denying millions of children the health care they need.

The health care reform legislation we passed an hour and a half ago will do that.

Let me explain again why this matters and give some examples. A woman named Renee has a 5-year old boy in Ohio with hydrocephalus. He has a shunt that drains the fluid from his brain down to his belly. That said, he is a healthy, smart, and extremely happy little boy.

His neurosurgeon said he is truly a best-case scenario—very healthy. How-

ever, no insurance company will take him—no quote, no interest in looking at his medical charts, nothing.

Renee said her family is truly left with no options for health care, unless she and her husband close down their business and go to work for corporate America and get in a huge health insurance pool plan.

Renee, writing about her son, says she can't get him health insurance because he has a preexisting condition. This bill, as soon as the President signs it, will say to the health insurance industry: You can no longer deny, refuse, or lock out insurance for a family because they have a child with a preexisting condition.

Think of the progress and of the thousands whom I mentioned in the beginning and the 1,700 children's hospital beds in the children's hospitals in my State. There are 200,000 uninsured children in Ohio. Many of them are sick enough that they are deemed by the insurance company as having a preexisting condition. No longer.

When the President signs this bill in January, children from Seattle to Cleveland, from Cincinnati to Tacoma, will be able to be on their parents' health insurance policy and be able to get the coverage they need.

I will share two other stories.

Laurie writes:

As a mother who had to deal with a baby born with problems and had many days of hospital stays, and many months of in-and-out of appointments and check-ups, I realized the vital importance of health care.

I was one of the lucky ones I guess, as I did have good insurance at the time.

As a healthcare provider myself, I see too often parents not being able to get their child seen [by a physician] due to lack of insurance that does not cover the costs of anything true.

It is our children who will be our future and those in Congress' future. When will enough be enough?

An hour and a half ago, we answered that question, when will enough be enough, when we made this decision collectively—60 of us, an overwhelming majority in the Senate—that children with preexisting conditions will no longer be denied health insurance.

Cassandra, a 14-year-old from Toledo, is uninsured simply because she is sick. She suffers from seizures and, as a result, no insurance company will cover her.

Cassandra is a nationally ranked figure skater and once skated with Michelle Kwan, but after selling their home and everything else they own and putting \$30,000 on their credit cards just to pay for Cassandra's care, the family had to finally sell her ice skating equipment on eBay.

Her parents do everything they can to protect their daughter, including buying dim lights and blackout drapes and making sure there aren't too many breakable items in the house.

Cassandra gets treatment for her seizures through the State's Bureau for Children's Medical Handicaps, but they are on their own for Cassandra's basic medical needs.

Cassandra's life will get better. Her family's life will get better because of what the Senate did an hour and a half ago. When the President signs the bill, she will not be denied insurance for a preexisting condition. Her family will be able to pay—at a reasonable cost—for insurance so Cassandra will not have to rely on this State program that only takes care of procedures but can get the comprehensive care she and every other child in this country deserve.

That is why I introduced this amendment, and that is why Senator LAUTENBERG and I worked on this legislation.

Every year in my State, over 2 million kids are treated at Ohio's children's hospitals. Next year will be the first year that, when they leave the hospital, they will not have to worry about insurance companies denying them care based on a preexisting condition.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT

Mr. REID. I want to speak today about S.2799, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009. This important piece of legislation, which combines legislation written by Senator DODD with legislation introduced by Senators BAYH, LIEBERMAN and KYL, was passed by the Banking Committee earlier this month. It would impose new sanctions on Iran's refined petroleum sector and tighten existing U.S. sanctions in an effort to create new pressure on the Iranian regime and help stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

I know that Senator KERRY, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has been working hard, along with other colleagues, to get a UC agreement so we can get this legislation passed. I understand that we are making good progress towards reaching that goal.

As we move forward with these negotiations, I want everyone to know that I am committed to getting this legislation to the floor sometime after we return in January.

Mr. DODD. I thank the majority leader for all of his help in trying to move this legislation forward. This comprehensive sanctions legislation would arm the administration with critical tools to apply additional pressure on the Iranian regime and disrupt its proliferation and terrorist activities at a pivotal time—a time when Iran's leaders continue to flaunt the will of the international community, trample on the rights of its own people, and threaten the national interests of the United States and our strongest allies, including Israel.

It is now clearer than ever that tougher sanctions must be a key element of our comprehensive Iran strategy going forward. My primary goal with this bill is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capa-

bility. That is why this measure passed the Senate Banking Committee unanimously in October, and I had hoped that we would be able to consider it in the Senate and move toward a conference with the House before we went out for the holidays. While I would have strongly preferred that, I recognize that given the delays on health care reform, we will not now have time to do that. I am also aware that the administration continues to have some concerns about how to create incentives in the bill for countries to cooperate more closely with U.S. efforts to impose tough new multilateral sanctions. I believe we have made some progress in our discussions of recent days, and I am grateful that the majority leader has indicated his willingness to move forward on the bill as soon as possible after we return.

Mr. KERRY. I appreciate Senator REID's commitment to move forward with this legislation and his support of the progress we are making towards a UC agreement. We all share the goal of creating maximum leverage in our efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon—this is a vital national security goal of the United States, and obviously of critical importance to our allies in Israel and around the world.

I believe that this legislation has the potential to make an important contribution to that effort. Having the Senate stand united with the administration behind this legislation would send a very strong and positive signal. That is why many of us are committed to working with the administration and the bill's sponsors to craft an amendment that all can agree on. I know these discussions will be continuing during recess with the intention of reaching a mutually agreeable resolution so that this legislation can be considered as soon as possible when we get back.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BRUEGGEMANN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the extraordinary work of First Deputy Director Charles E. Brueggemann of the Illinois State Police. Mr. Brueggemann has served with distinction for 25 years with the Illinois State Police, including as second in command of the department since April 1, 2008.

Mr. Brueggemann began his outstanding career with the Illinois State Police in 1985, serving in patrol, as well as a variety of investigative positions to include narcotics, homicides and crimes against persons. He also served during his tenure in management positions that contributed greatly to the department and community he served. Those positions included district commander, executive officer, assistant deputy director, deputy director and first deputy director.

As first deputy director, Mr. Brueggemann oversaw the agency's

five divisions—operations, forensics, information and technology command, internal investigations, and administration. He was responsible for the oversight of the director's principal advisors assigned to legislative affairs, public information, inspections and budget.

In his prior position, Mr. Brueggemann had oversight of the operations division, with wide-ranging responsibilities including patrol, investigations, homeland security and gaming. While serving in that capacity, Mr. Brueggemann was charged with coordinating a plan to reduce highway fatalities. Under his leadership, the division developed a remarkable strategy that reduced highway crashes to their lowest level in 87 years.

In other honors, he was selected in 2005 by the FBI to attend a counterterrorism leadership program that involved traveling abroad with seven other major city, State, and Federal law enforcement executives to share information and open lines of communications between different nations in the fight against terrorism. Law enforcement officials from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Canada also participated.

Mr. Brueggemann received his bachelors degree from McKendree University and a masters degree in Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School. Married for more than two decades to his wife Susan, they have two daughters Beth and Ali.

I congratulate Mr. Brueggemann on his retirement and thank him for his service to the people of Illinois.

#### SENATE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. DEMINT. Madam President, one of the important officers in the Senate is the Senate Parliamentarian. The Senate rules are arcane and often vague, and the Parliamentarian is responsible for making sure they are properly applied. Our four Parliamentarians put in long, thankless hours in service to their country. They get no glory, no public accolades. They rarely get high fives for getting the rulings right, but we are always too happy to tell them when we think they got it wrong. Often our disagreement is not with the Parliamentarians, but with the precedents themselves.

The Senate often chooses to sidestep its rules, creating precedents that become loopholes in the rules, which bind the Parliamentarian in the future. We should be careful to avoid these situations because we can unwittingly trample on the right of the minority.

I want to make it clear that while I do have occasional disagreements with the Parliamentarian's office, I still believe they are doing their best to be fair and to apply the rules and precedents as they see them.